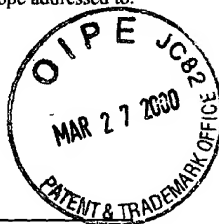


GRA 2876

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16072-000600US
Client Reference No.: S 1098 - W/cd

On March 21, 2000

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Timothy S. Parker

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

PETER RUDLOFF

Application No.: 09/403,174

Filed: October 18, 1999

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
IDENTIFYING AND
AUTHENTICATING ACCESSORIES,
AUXILIARY AND/OR OPERATING
SUBSTANCES FOR ITEMS OF
EQUIPMENT

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2876

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and
§1.98

6th/Prior Art

4/3/00

POB

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed.

Further, applicant encloses a copy of a German Office Action dated February 17, 1999 (with English translation) issued in conjunction with counterpart German application No. 19822751.5, and in which references AA, AB and AN were cited. In addition, applicant encloses partial English translations of applicant's responses to said Office Action dated March




17, 1999 and July 22, 1999, and the minutes to a Hearing before the German Patent and Trademark Office dated August 17, 1999 (with English translation), in which references AM and AS were cited.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Georg Seka
Reg. No. 24,491

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
JGS/tp

SF 1079074 v1

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800